REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 22, 2004. Claims 1-23 were pending in the application and all claims were rejected. With this amendment, independent claims 1, 8, 10 and 23 are amended and the remaining claims are unchanged in the application.

At the top of page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claim 23 indicating that the dependency should be changed to "claim 22." Applicant has made this change and therefore claim 23 is believed to be in proper form.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Bond et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,539,348. On pages 4-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 8, 9, 12 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bond et al. in view of the Carus U.S. Patent No. 5,890,103. Of these claims, claims 1, 8 and 10 are independent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

At the outset, it is worth noting that the present specification specifically discusses the meaning of "token" and "word". On page 4 of the specification, the application states that "the term 'token' will refer to any input text flanked by white spaces or by the beginning and/or end of the input string. The term 'word' is used to identify the linguistic unit (or units) into which a given token is broken or segmented after undergoing a tokenization process."

With the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the step of "validating word boundaries in the proposed tokens by submitting the proposed tokens to a linguistic knowledge component...". Independent claim 8 has been amended to include "a linguistic knowledge component configured to validate word boundaries in a token as a linguistically

meaningful unit…". Independent claim 10 has been amended to read "attempting to validate word boundaries in the first segmentation by submitting the first segmentation to a linguistic knowledge component…". Therefore, it is clear that the present invention is directed to proposing a set of word boundaries in an input string (or token), and then validating those word boundaries by submitting them to a linguistic analysis component. The present invention is thus looking to make sure that the word boundaries are accurate and comport with the linguistic information in the linguistic processor.

By contrast, Bond et al. does nothing to verify word boundaries. Instead, the input string is broken into word boundaries by token isolation process 14 shown in FIG. 1. This is described at col. 3, lines 23-25 which states: "Token isolation is a known process for identifying individual words and grammatical markings." All remaining processes are either trying to attach syntactic identifiers to the words or to combining the words into clauses or phrases during later parsing. There is no linguistic analysis component which is used, in any respect, to further identify or confirm or otherwise validate word boundaries. None of the other references remedy this deficiency in Bond et al.

Applicant thus submits that independent claims 1, 8 and 10 are allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Bond et al. is the only reference cited against the validation element of the claims. Since Bond et al. clearly does not teach the element or suggest it, Applicant submits that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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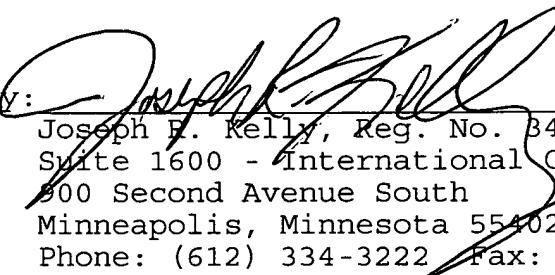
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